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Item 49 of the preliminary list*

QUESTION OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS (MALVINAS)

Letter dated 8 May 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to request that you have the text of this letter and its annex, containing a note submitted on 30 April 1998 by the Government of the Argentine Republic to the Embassy of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in Buenos Aires, distributed as a document of the General Assembly under item 49 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Fernando PETRELLA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* A/53/50.

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ANNEX

Note dated 30 April 1998 from the Government of Argentina addressed to the Embassy of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in Buenos Aires

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship, Office of the Malvinas and the South Atlantic, presents its compliments to the Embassy of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and wishes to refer to the drilling operations being carried out to the north of the Malvinas Islands.

The Argentine Government rejects the so-called "right" of the United Kingdom to authorize oil drilling activities in the Argentine continental shelf. Reiterating the terms of the Argentine statement of 27 September 1995 and the Argentine complaint of 5 October 1995 addressed to the United Kingdom Government, the Argentine Government declares that it neither recognizes nor accepts the call for tenders for the exploration and exploitation of resources which are located in maritime zones belonging to the Argentine Republic and over which it has legitimate rights of sovereignty and jurisdiction.

The Argentine Government reiterates its inalienable rights over the Malvinas, South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime zones.